THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) There is a demand for the formation of a 'Jharkhand' State to be carried out of the States of Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. There is also a demand for the formation of 'Uttaranchal' State comprising the eight hill districts of the Kumaon and Garhwal Divisions of Uttar Pradesh. Both the demands are still under consideration.

Joint task-force for Chakma refugees

664. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have decided to set up a Joint task force to deal with the problem of influx of Chakma refugees and illegal immigrants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) During the recent visit of the Bangladesh Prime Minister, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh of India in Joint Communique agree to arrange speedy repatriation of all Chakma refugees to Bangladesh in full safety and security. In this context, the Bangladesh side agreed to set up a representative political level Committee that would encourage the refugees to return. The Indian side assured that its authorities would cooperate fully in the process of repatriation.

They also expressed their determination to stop movement of people across the border by all possible means including strengthening of existing arrangements and mutual cooperation in this regard.

Political Process in J & K

665. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SHABBIR AHMAD SALARIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to initiate political process in J & K before poll;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of political parties and national leaders with whom Government have initiated dialogue in this matter;

(d) whether elections would be held in J & K after fresh delimitation of constituencies; and

(e) whether Government will ensure rehabilitation of Kashmiri migrants to their respective places before the elections are held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (e) The Government has made sincere efforts to consult different shades of opinion to evolve a national concensus on J & K. Regular discussions with the leaders of the Political Parties have been held on the situation in J & K. Home Minister discussed it with the State leaders on 13th November, 1991 and the National Integration Council deliberated on it on 31st December, 1991; followed by on all party conference held on 10th February, 1992. Consultative Committee of the Parliament has also held discussions on J & K on 13th December, 1991 and 5th May, 1992 and again on 29th June, 1992.

The Government is keen to hold elections as soon as favourable conditions for free and fair elections are created. No definite time frame can however, be set for elections at this stage.